

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1141

Introduced by Assembly Member Thompson

February 25, 1999

An act to amend Section 1547 of the Penal Code, relating to criminal offenders.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1141, as introduced, Thompson. Criminal procedure: reward payments.

Existing law authorizes the Governor to offer a reward of not more than \$50,000, payable out of the General Fund, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons who have committed any of several specified crimes.

This bill would authorize the Governor to offer a reward of not more than an unspecified amount, payable out of the General Fund, and include among the specified crimes certain arson offenses and the possession or manufacture of flammable or combustible materials or incendiary devices.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1547 of the Penal Code is
2 amended to read:
3 1547. (a) The Governor may offer a reward of not
4 more than ~~fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)~~ _____,

1 payable out of the General Fund, for information leading
2 to the arrest and conviction of any of the following:

3 (1) Any convict who has escaped from a state prison,
4 prison camp, prison farm, or the custody of any prison
5 officer or employee or as provided in Section 3059 or 4530.

6 (2) Any person who has committed, or is charged with
7 the commission of, an offense punishable by death.

8 (3) (A) Any person engaged in the robbery or
9 hijacking of, or any attempt to rob or hijack, any person
10 upon or in charge of, in whole or in part, any public
11 conveyance engaged at the time in carrying passengers
12 within this state.

13 (B) As used in this paragraph, “hijacking” means an
14 unauthorized person causing, or attempting to cause, by
15 violence or threat of violence, a public conveyance to go
16 to an unauthorized destination.

17 (4) Any person who attempts to murder either in the
18 first or second degree, assaults with a deadly weapon, or
19 inflicts serious bodily harm upon a peace officer or
20 firefighter who is acting in the line of duty.

21 (5) Any person who has committed a crime involving
22 the burning or bombing of public or private property,
23 including any public hospital housed in a privately owned
24 facility.

25 (6) Any person who has committed a crime involving
26 the burning or bombing of any private hospital. A reward
27 may be offered by the Governor in conjunction with such
28 a crime only if a reward in conjunction with the same
29 crime is offered by the hospital, or any other public or
30 private donor on its behalf. The amount of the reward
31 offered by the Governor shall not exceed the aggregate
32 amount offered privately, or fifty thousand dollars
33 (\$50,000), whichever is less. Nothing in this paragraph
34 shall preclude a private hospital, or any public or private
35 donor on its behalf, from offering a reward in an amount
36 exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). If a person
37 providing information for a reward under this paragraph
38 so requests, his or her name and address shall remain
39 confidential. This confidentiality, however, shall not



1 preclude or obstruct the investigations of law
2 enforcement authorities.

3 (7) Any person who commits a violation of Section
4 11413.

5 (8) Any person who commits a violation of Section 207.

6 (9) Any person who has committed a crime involving
7 the burning or bombing of any bookstore or public or
8 private library not subject to Section 11413. A reward may
9 be offered by the Governor in conjunction with such a
10 crime only if a reward in conjunction with the same crime
11 is offered by the bookstore or library, or any other public
12 or private donor on its behalf. The amount of the reward
13 offered by the Governor shall not exceed the aggregate
14 amount offered privately, or fifty thousand dollars
15 (\$50,000), whichever is less. Nothing in this paragraph
16 shall preclude a bookstore or public or private library, or
17 any public or private donor on its behalf, from offering a
18 reward in an amount exceeding fifty thousand dollars
19 (\$50,000). If a person providing information for a reward
20 under this paragraph so requests, his or her name and
21 address shall remain confidential. This confidentiality,
22 however, shall not preclude or obstruct the investigations
23 of law enforcement authorities.

24 (10) Any person who commits a violation of Section
25 454 or 463.

26 (11) Any person who willfully and maliciously sets fire
27 to, or who attempts to willfully and maliciously set fire to,
28 any property that is included within a hazardous fire area
29 designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire
30 Protection pursuant to Section 4252 of the Public
31 Resources Code or by the Director of Forestry and Fire
32 Protection pursuant to Section 4253 of the Public
33 Resources Code, if the fire, or attempt to set a fire, results
34 in death or great bodily injury to anyone, including fire
35 protection personnel, or if the fire causes substantial
36 structural damage.

37 (12) Any person who has committed, or is charged
38 with the commission of, a felony that is punishable under
39 Section 422.75 and that resulted in serious bodily injury or



1 in property damage of more than ten thousand dollars
2 (\$10,000).

3 (13) Any person who commits an act that violates
4 Section 11411, if the Governor determines that the act is
5 one in a series of similar or related acts committed in
6 violation of that section by the same person or group.

7 *(14) Any person who commits a violation of Section*
8 *451, 451.5, 453, or 457.*

9 (b) The Governor may offer a reward of not more than
10 one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for information
11 leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who
12 kills a peace officer or firefighter who is acting in the line
13 of duty.

14 (c) The Governor may offer a reward of not more than
15 one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), payable out of
16 the General Fund, for information leading to the arrest
17 and conviction of any person who commits arson upon a
18 place of worship.

19 (d) The reward shall be paid to the person giving the
20 information, immediately upon the conviction of the
21 person so arrested.

